



3.30.09

I am Marne Smiley and am here on behalf of the Michigan Mountain Biking Association and our over 2500 members throughout the state to speak on House Bill 4678/4677 and Senate Bill 388/389. We would like to express our support for the bills that have been introduced to these committees. Our organization works with land managers to maintain over 1000 miles throughout Michigan with a good majority of these trail riding opportunities located on Michigan State Parks.

The state parks and the trails within are vital to our 2500 members. We are committed to our trails and volunteer over 10,000 hours of trailwork each year. This is equivalent to the MMBA donating over a quarter of a million of dollars to the trails we care about and an investment we would like to continue.

We ask that you pass these bills as they are written. Michigan has been a popular focus for trail users across the State, but also pulls from the surrounding states as well. The State Parks have many opportunities to expand the trail system, but first need a sustainable long-term funding model to ensure what we put in place now will still be sustainable for many years to come. We look forward to moving forward with the DNR and other invested user groups to make Michigan one of the top destination riding areas in the Midwest.

*The Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA) is a 501(C)(3) charitable non-profit corporation. We have over 2,500 members within nine chapters throughout Michigan. We are one of the largest affiliates of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA.)*

*The mission of the MMBA is to promote responsible mountain biking and to work toward the goals of common land access and natural resource protection through interaction with policy makers, the cycling industry, race promoters, mountain bikers and other trail users. Our membership represents all levels of riders, from beginners to world champion racers. Our common passion for trail riding and stewardship brings us together as a collective voice.*

Thank you for your time and allowing me to emphasize how important these bills are to the Michigan Mountain Biking Association.

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